PATENT 730083-2000.2

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

RECEIVED

Applicant

Stelzer, et al.

CENTRAL FAX CENTER

Serial No.

09/943,346

MAY 2 1 2004

For

MINIMALLY INVASIVE SURGERY DEVICE

Filed

August 29, 2001

Examiner

Catherine Serke

Art Unit

3763

745 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10151

EXPEDITED PROCEDURE RESPONSE AFTER FINAL ACTION UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.116

FACSIMILE

I hereby certify that this paper is being facsimile transmitted to the Patent and Trademark Office on the date shown below.

Anne-Marie C. Yvon, Reg. No. 52,390

Type or print name of person signing certification

May 21, 2004

Date of Signature

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

Mail Stop AF Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

This is in response to the January 21, 2004 Office Action, having a three-month term for reply.

REQUEST FOR EXTENSION OF TIME

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.136(a), a one-month extension of the term for reply, i.e., to up to and including May 21, 2004, is requested. The Commissioner is authorized to charge \$55.00. in payment of the fee under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(a) for a small entity, any additionally required fee for the extension, or any other fee occasioned by this paper, or credit any overpayment in such fees, to Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

00195070